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Letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith a report on the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Uganda in October 2010 (see annex).

The document was prepared under my responsibility, after consultation with the other members of the Security Council.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ruhakana **Rugunda**
Ambassador and Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 9 December 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Uganda to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Security Council

Assessment of the work of the Security Council during the presidency of Uganda (October 2010)

Introduction

During the presidency of Uganda, in the month of October 2010, the Security Council held 20 formal meetings, including 18 public meetings, of which four were open debates. It also held two private meetings and eight closed consultations. The members of the Council undertook a mission to Uganda and the Sudan from 4 to 10 October.

The Council adopted five resolutions and three presidential statements. The President also read out four press statements and made oral remarks to the press in two instances.

Africa

Chad, the Central African Republic and the subregion

On 20 October, the Council was briefed at an open meeting by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), Youssef Mahmoud, who presented the report of the Secretary-General on MINURCAT (S/2010/529). He commended the work of the Chadian/Sudanese Joint Border Monitoring Force, which had, inter alia, contributed to a calm security situation at the common border area and the increased return of internally displaced persons to their homes. He noted, however, that the humanitarian situation remained a matter of concern. The Council was also addressed by the Minister for Foreign Affairs, Regional Integration and Francophonie of the Central African Republic, General Antoine Gambi, and the Permanent Representative of Chad to the United Nations, Ahmad Allam-mi.

In the consultations that followed, the members of the Security Council took note of the improving security situation in Eastern Chad, as well as the volatility prevailing in the north-eastern Central African Republic. In view of the imminent withdrawal of MINURCAT and the limited capacity of the Government of the Central African Republic, Council members noted the need to help that Government to deploy additional forces. The members of the Security Council welcomed the return of internally displaced persons and emphasized the need to ensure voluntary return. They welcomed the improved relations between Chad and the Sudan as crucial for the stabilization of the region.

On 21 October, the Council held an informal interactive dialogue with the Special Representative of the President of Chad for MINURCAT in which he updated the Council on the Détachement intégré de sécurité (DIS) sustainability plan, which outlined the financial and other needs required to enhance the Government's capacity to support DIS after MINURCAT departed.

Côte d'Ivoire

On 14 October, during consultations, the Council was briefed by Ambassador Maria Luiza Viotti in her capacity as the Chair of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1572 (2004) concerning Côte d'Ivoire. She highlighted the main findings contained in the report of the Group of Experts pursuant to resolution 1893 (2009), and the Committee's activities since her last briefing of 15 April 2010.

On 15 October, the Council adopted resolution 1946 (2010), by which it, inter alia, renewed until 30 April 2011 the measures on arms and the financial and travel measures imposed by paragraphs 7 to 12 of resolution 1572 (2004) and the measures preventing the importation of all rough diamonds from Côte d'Ivoire imposed by paragraph 6 of resolution 1643 (2005). The Council decided to review the measures in the light of the progress achieved in the electoral process and in the implementation of the key steps of the peace process, as referred to in resolution 1933 (2010), no later than three months after the holding of open, free, fair and transparent presidential elections. The Council also extended the mandate of the Group of Experts, as set out in paragraph 7 of resolution 1727 (2006), until 30 April 2011.

The President of the Council later made oral remarks to the press in which he recalled the priority of holding Presidential elections scheduled for 31 October 2010 in free, peaceful and transparent conditions, as a crucial element of the peace process in Côte d'Ivoire.

Democratic Republic of the Congo

On 14 October, at an open meeting, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, Margot Wallström, on her visit to the Democratic Republic of the Congo. She informed the Council that the opportunity that had been provided by the arrests of some of the perpetrators of recent mass rapes in the Democratic Republic of the Congo must be seized to ensure that all the perpetrators and those who bore responsibility for sexual violence were held accountable. The Council then held informal consultations in which it reiterated its support for the mandate of the Special Representative.

On 15 October, at an open meeting, the Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO), Roger Meece, on the report of the Secretary-General on MONUSCO (S/2010/512). He said that the horrific attacks in late July and early August in North Kivu had underscored the importance of civilian protection, and as a result a major internal review of programmes had been undertaken related to MONUSCO protection activities. He stated that given the escalating violence, MONUSCO had established a more visible and active military posture, but he cautioned that even good short-term military operations alone would not be sufficient to ensure long-term security in the country.

The Council then held informal consultations in which members exchanged views on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Following the meeting, the President of the Council made remarks to the press, noting that while

most of the country was relatively stable, there remained deep concerns about the security challenges in the east of the country. He reiterated the need for Congolese authorities to continue the fight against impunity, especially against all the perpetrators of human rights violations and sexual violence. The Council commended the States in the region for their increased cooperation and joint efforts undertaken to address the serious threat posed by the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA).

Somalia

On 21 October, the Security Council was briefed by the Secretary-General on the situation in Somalia. The Secretary-General expressed concern about the fragile security situation in the country, while noting with optimism the recent political and security developments, including the nomination of a new Prime Minister designate. He called upon the Security Council to take bold and courageous decisions to strengthen the African Union Mission in Somalia (AMISOM). The Secretary-General commended the African Union and AMISOM for the efforts undertaken in assisting the Transitional Federal Government. The Council was also briefed by the Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ambassador Ramtane Lamamra, and heard statements by the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Transitional Federal Government of Somalia, Yusuf Hassan Ibrahim. Mr. Lamamra outlined the recommendations of the African Union Peace and Security Council on how to address the challenges facing Somalia at three levels of action: by the Somalis, the African Union, and the United Nations and the wider international community. He requested the Council to endorse the recommendations of the African Union addressed to the United Nations that included, among others, the newly authorized strength and enhanced support package for AMISOM, imposition of a no-fly zone and naval blockade, and the United Nation's reaffirmation of its commitment to deploy a United Nations peacekeeping operation in Somalia. In his statement, the Foreign Minister, Mr. Ibrahim, endorsed the position of the African Union Peace and Security Council and expressed the determination of the Transitional Federal Government to address internal differences.

In the private meeting that followed, members of the Council expressed their concern at the continued instability in Somalia and the deteriorating humanitarian situation. They reaffirmed their support for the Djibouti peace process, the Transitional Federal Government and AMISOM and stressed the importance of predictable, reliable and timely provision of resources to the latter, as well as support to the Transitional Federal Government for the rebuilding of state institutions, in particular the security sector. They called upon the leadership of Somalia to strengthen harmony within and between the transitional federal institutions and expeditiously confirm the Prime Minister designate so that the remaining tasks under the transitional period could be completed, including the constitutional process and reconciliation.

Members of the Council also welcomed the appointment of former President Jerry Rawlings as the new African Union High Representative for Somalia and noted the decisions adopted from 25 to 27 July 2010 by the African Union Summit in Kampala and the recommendations of the ministerial meeting of the African Union Peace and Security Council held in Addis Ababa on 15 October 2010. A press statement (SC/10065) was issued at the end of the meeting.

The Sudan

On 14 October, the Council adopted resolution 1945 (2010) by which it, inter alia, extended until 19 October 2011 the mandate of the Panel of Experts, originally appointed pursuant to resolution 1591 (2005) and previously extended by resolutions 1651 (2005), 1665 (2006), 1713 (2006), 1779 (2007), 1841 (2008) and 1891 (2009). The Council reaffirmed the mandate of the Committee to encourage dialogue with interested Member States, in particular those in the region, including by inviting representatives of such States to meet with the Committee to discuss implementation of the measures, and further encouraged the Committee to continue its dialogue with the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).

On 25 October, the Security Council was briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, on the situation in the Sudan and the work of UNAMID and the United Nations Mission in the Sudan (UNMIS). He informed the Council of progress being made regarding the forthcoming referendum in Southern Sudan, including the release of the timetable for the referendum process by the Southern Sudan Referendum Commission. He noted that much still remained to be accomplished and expressed concern over the lack of progress on other referendum-related issues, including the Abyei referendum. On Darfur, he observed that there had been some improvement in the overall security situation, but there were concerns over violence in camps for internally displaced persons, restrictions on movement of peacekeepers, and criminal activities including kidnappings. The Council was also addressed by the Permanent Representative of the Sudan to the United Nations, Ambassador Ali Osman.

The members of the Security Council held consultations in which they urged the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to fulfil the commitments they had made on 24 September 2010 and to the Council during its visit to the Sudan, namely: full and timely implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including holding of a credible, peaceful and free referendum on 9 January 2011. The Council also undertook to follow the situation in Darfur closely, building on its visit on 7 and 8 October 2010.

The President of the Council later made oral remarks to the press in which he said the Council urged the parties to the Comprehensive Peace Agreement to fulfil their commitments for its full and timely implementation, including the holding of credible, peaceful and free referendums on 9 January 2011.

Peace and security in Africa

On 22 October, the Council held an open debate on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations, presided over by the First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs of Uganda, Eriya Kategaya.

In his opening remarks, the First Deputy Prime Minister noted that peacekeeping was increasingly becoming a shared responsibility in which the United Nations, regional and subregional organizations and the wider international community had critical roles to play. He welcomed the progress being made towards strengthening the strategic partnership between the United Nations and the African Union. He pointed out that the African Union, cognizant of the detrimental impact

of prevalence of conflicts, in terms of retarding socio-economic development and causing untold suffering to the population, had shown its resolve and commitment to preventing, mediating and resolving conflicts on the continent. However, the efforts of the African Union to effectively deploy peacekeeping operations, he said, continued to be hampered by the lack of sustainable, predictable and flexible financing. He noted that while the support rendered through voluntary contributions was appreciated, such support was not only unpredictable but also unsustainable. He underscored the need to take decisive action on practical ways of actualizing that support, as was recommended almost two years ago by the African Union-United Nations Panel chaired by former Prime Minister Romano Prodi.

The Secretary-General presented his report on support to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the United Nations (A/65/510-S/2010/514). He said that the work of regional organizations under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations was indispensable, and the African Union and its subregional organizations had already made great efforts to prevent, mediate and resolve conflicts on the continent, with their personnel often paying the highest price. While thanking the African Union for its commitment to peace and security and close cooperation with the United Nations, he noted that the relationship had yet to reach its full potential.

The Secretary-General said that whereas building the capacity of the African Union was important, solutions must be found to provide predictable, sustainable and flexible resources to African Union peacekeeping operations authorized by the Council. He said African-led peacekeeping operations ought to receive the same support as United Nations operations, including reimbursement. He said African Union peacekeepers should uphold the same professional standards as United Nations personnel, and the Secretariat of the United Nations had been working with the African Union Commission to define guidelines and strengthen capacity to protect civilians.

The Commissioner for Peace and Security of the African Union, Ramtane Lamamra, welcomed the progress made in strengthening the strategic partnership between the African Union and the United Nations.

He highlighted the close working relationship between the African Union Commission and the United Nations Secretariat, the launching on 25 September 2010 of the Joint African Union-United Nations Task Force on Peace and Security, the establishment in July of the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) in Addis Ababa, and the holding of a retreat in August in Cairo, within the framework of the Year of Peace and Security in Africa, between senior officials of the African Union and the United Nations, which had given new impetus to more effective coordination.

The Commissioner noted that some progress had been made towards the implementation of some of the recommendations by the African Union-United Nations Panel led by former Prime Minister Prodi. While noting that the logistical support package for AMISOM financed through United Nations assessed contributions had been a key factor in the operations of AMISOM, he called for further progress towards finding a lasting solution for sustainable and predictable funding for African Union-led peacekeeping operations. The Commissioner said that the African Union was determined to fully play its role, consistent with the provisions of Chapter VIII of the Charter, through enhancing its capacity,

accelerating the full operationalization of Africa's peace and security architecture, and making conflict prevention a centrepiece of its actions.

The Council also heard statements by Council members, including the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Nigeria, Odein Ajumogobia, and by representatives of eight Member States and the European Union.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 22 October (S/PRST/2010/21), in which it, inter alia, noted the Secretary-General's observation in his report that while the African Union was taking critical measures to enhance its institutional capacity to undertake peacekeeping operations with the support of the United Nations and key partners, the issue of securing sustainable, predictable and flexible financing remained a key challenge. The Security Council expressed its determination to continue working, in accordance with its responsibilities under the Charter, towards a more predictable and sustainable solution to those funding challenges.

Security Council Mission to Africa

On 14 October, the Council was briefed by the leaders of its Mission to Uganda and the Sudan from 4 to 10 October. The Permanent Representative of Uganda, Ambassador Ruhakana Rugunda, in his national capacity and as leader of the Uganda leg on 5 and 6 October, said that during the Mission's visit to the Entebbe Regional Service Centre, Council members had been taken on a guided tour of the Centre and were briefed on its operations. The Council had been informed that since the Centre's establishment in 2003, its services to United Nations missions had steadily increased, and that in addition to the United Nations Organization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC), the base supported UNAMID, MINURCAT and UNMIS as well as other United Nations agencies. Council members were further informed that the aim of the Centre was to deliver services faster in support of missions, to improve the quality of the services, and to increase efficiency and effective use of resources.

Ambassador Rugunda said the Council members had held a meeting with President Yoweri Museveni during which they reiterated the Security Council's support for the improvement of relations among the countries of the region, emphasized support for action against armed groups in the region, particularly the Lord's Resistance Army, reiterated the Security Council's support for the Djibouti peace process and support for AMISOM in the stabilization of Somalia. President Museveni stressed the importance of strengthening cooperation between the United Nations, the African Union and subregional organizations. He affirmed the importance of full implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement, including the holding of a free, transparent and timely referendum in Southern Sudan. He also expressed confidence that stability in Somalia was achievable if the international community supported AMISOM with the requisite resources.

The Permanent Representative of the United States of America, Ambassador Susan Rice, who co-led the Sudan leg on 7 and 8 October, said that the purpose of the Mission was to underscore that the Council was united in its desire for the Sudan's referendums on self-determination to be carried out in accordance with the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. She said that the Council reiterated that the referendums should be held on time, they should be credible, and their results must be accepted. The Council also sought to assess the status of preparations for the

referendums, as well as the performance of UNMIS in providing assistance for implementation of the Agreement. The Council stressed that it expected UNMIS to have unhindered access, and emphasized the importance of addressing the humanitarian and development challenges facing Southern Sudan, regardless of the outcome of the referendums. She said the Council members had held a meeting in Juba with the First Vice-President of the Sudan and President of the Government of Southern Sudan, Salva Kiir, who informed them that the expectations in the South were high, and the people were focused on the referendum. He also shared his concerns about the unresolved border demarcation, the delay in preparing for the referendum in Abyei, as well as the slow progress of negotiations on post-referendum issues.

On 8 October, the Mission visited the Rajaf Police Training Centre, where the Government of Southern Sudan was training a civilian police force.

The Permanent Representative of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Ambassador Mark Lyall Grant, who co-led the Sudan leg, said that in El Fasher on 7 October, the Mission had met with the Joint Special Representative Ibrahim Gambari and UNAMID senior staff, who briefed it on the current security situation. On 8 October, the Council Mission toured the UNAMID supercamp and held meetings with members of the United Nations country team and representatives of international non-governmental organizations.

He said the Mission has also held a meeting with the Governor of Northern Darfur and expressed its deep concern about the upsurge in violence in Darfur, the number of civilian casualties, and the continued restrictions on humanitarian access. The Mission reiterated the Council's call on the Government and all parties to cooperate fully with UNAMID, and expressed support for the African Union-United Nations-led peace process and the work of the Joint Chief Mediator, Djibril Bassolé, and urged all rebel groups to join the Doha peace process without preconditions or further delay. Members of the Council also underlined the need for action on impunity. The Mission also visited the Abu Shouk IDP camp.

Ambassador Grant said that in Khartoum, the Mission had met with the Vice-President of the Sudan, Ali Osman Taha, as well as Foreign Minister Ali Karti, who reaffirmed the Government's commitment to holding the referendum in Southern Sudan on time, in accordance with the provisions of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Council members welcomed that commitment and affirmed the need for outstanding issues to be settled. The Mission also met with southerners living in the north, the Governor of Blue Nile State and the Deputy Governor of South Kordofan State.

Americas

Haiti

On 14 October, the Security Council unanimously adopted resolution 1944 (2010) extending the mandate of the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) until 15 October 2011.

Asia

Afghanistan

On 13 October, the Council adopted resolution 1943 (2010), by which it, inter alia, extended the authorization of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), as defined in resolutions 1386 (2001) and 1510 (2003), for a period of 12 months until 13 October 2011. The Council authorized the Member States participating in ISAF to take all necessary measures to fulfil its mandate.

Nepal

On 14 October, the Security Council was briefed on the situation in Nepal, including the work of the United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), by the Under-Secretary-General for Political Affairs, B. Lynn Pascoe, as requested in Security Council resolution 1939 (2010).

The briefing followed Mr. Pascoe's visit to Nepal on 6 and 7 October 2010, which aimed at assessing the status of the peace process, with a special focus on the implementation of the Four Point Agreement of 13 September between the Government of Nepal and the Unified Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist). He informed the Council that, while the political impasse remained, some important steps had been taken, and efforts were continuing for achieving the objectives the parties had set for themselves.

On 20 October, the Security Council continued its consideration of the situation in Nepal in consultations. The Council members, in a press statement (SC/10062), recalled the commitment of the Nepalese political parties to implement the Comprehensive Peace Agreement and noted recent developments in Nepal's peace process, including the renewed efforts of the Special Committee for supervision, integration and rehabilitation of Maoist Army personnel, and the establishment of its secretariat that would take forward the integration and rehabilitation process. The members of the Council also underlined the importance of the Agreement and implementation of a clear workplan from the Special Committee that included timelines and benchmarks and arrangements for the management of any of UNMIN's residual tasks, following its termination. The members of the Council reaffirmed their support for Nepal's peace process and underscored the need for continued progress in the remaining three months of the UNMIN mandate, in accordance with resolution 1939 (2010).

Timor-Leste

On 19 October, the Security Council held an open debate on the situation in Timor-Leste, including the work of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste (UNMIT). The Council was briefed by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and Head of UNMIT, Ameerah Haq.

Ms. Haq informed the Council of the stable security and political situation prevailing in the country, as well as the formulation of several plans aimed at setting Timor-Leste on the path to long-term development, especially the draft Strategic National Development Plan. She also briefed the Council on the progress being made in the resumption of policing responsibilities by the Timor-Leste National

Police (PNTL). The Permanent Representative of Timor-Leste, Ambassador Sofia Mesqita Borges, also addressed the Council and expressed support for UNMIT.

Members of the Security Council welcomed the progress made and reiterated the need for sustained international support with a view to consolidating the gains attained so far.

The situation in the Middle East, including the Palestinian question

On 18 October, the Council held an open debate on the situation in the Middle East, during which it heard a briefing by the Assistant Secretary-General for Political Affairs, Oscar Fernandez-Taranco.

Mr. Fernandez-Taranco stressed the need to overcome the current impasse in the talks between Israelis and Palestinians and to ensure that when talks resumed they moved intensively and definitively to seek resolutions of the key core issues. He noted that the parties had not met since 15 September, following the expiration of Israel's partial settlement moratorium in the West Bank on 26 September. He reiterated that there was no alternative to a negotiated settlement resulting in two States living side by side in peace. He said that in spite of the uncertainties, the State-building agenda of the Palestinian Authority continued to advance.

The Council also heard statements by the Permanent Representative of Israel and the Permanent Observer for Palestine. Statements were made by Council members and 25 other speakers. Most speakers called upon both the Israeli and Palestinian sides to return to the negotiating table and to make the necessary compromises to agree on a two-State solution for durable peace and security. Many speakers called on Israel to renew its moratorium on settlement activity, and called for an immediate freeze on all settlement activity. On Lebanon, many speakers expressed support for the independence of the Special Tribunal and reiterated the importance of all parties fulfilling their obligations under Council resolution 1701 (2006).

Lebanon

On 28 October, the Council was briefed in consultations by the Secretary-General's Special Envoy, Terje Roed-Larsen, on the implementation of resolution 1559 (2004) as reflected in the twelfth semi-annual report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/538).

Thematic and general issues

Post-conflict peacebuilding

On 13 October, the Council held an open debate on post-conflict peacebuilding and considered the reports of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding in the immediate aftermath of conflict (A/64/866-S/2010/386) and on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466).

In his statement, the Secretary-General noted that peacebuilding efforts had become more integrated, coherent and flexible, but there was still need to show more tangible and quick results on the ground. He said that while significant progress was being made, it was important to remember that for people who had suffered through conflict, progress could not come fast enough. He said that senior

leaders of the United Nations were now deployed quickly to crisis situations, but there was still need for them to be supported by properly trained and equipped teams to perform the full range of responsibilities from the very beginning. The Secretary-General noted that in-depth consideration of how to achieve that was under way.

He underscored the need for reliable funding, developing strategic partnerships, and coherence among institutional arrangements of the various United Nations actors, as well as closer cooperation between the Security Council and the Peacebuilding Commission.

The Secretary-General, introducing his new report on women's participation in peacebuilding (A/65/354-S/2010/466), pointed out that overcoming the hurdles to women's greater engagement and empowerment would require integrating their effort into all activities and providing dedicated funding for women's needs. He called for a pragmatic and flexible approach in bringing the requisite tools into play at the appropriate moments.

The Chairperson of the Peacebuilding Commission, Ambassador Peter Wittig of Germany, emphasized the need for more coordinated, flexible and predictable financial support for peacebuilding. He also underscored the importance of a more gender-responsive peacebuilding agenda, in which women were recognized both as victims of conflict and agents for change.

Statements were made by Council members and the representatives of 14 Member States and one organization. Most speakers welcomed the continuing efforts to improve post-conflict peacebuilding. They also emphasized the importance of national ownership, building of national capacity, and the need for a holistic, complementary and integrated approach to peacekeeping, peacebuilding and development. It was stressed that closer coordination among all relevant actors and the Peacebuilding Commission, including with the international financial institutions, was essential.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 13 October (S/PRST/2010/20), in which it, inter alia, welcomed and encouraged more coordinated, coherent and integrated peacebuilding efforts, which included forging stronger partnerships among Member States, regional and subregional organizations, the World Bank and other international financial institutions, other multilateral partners, civil society and the private sector, with a focus on delivering greater impact and results on the ground. The Council also reaffirmed the critical importance of timely, flexible and predictable funding for peacebuilding, and urged Member States and other partners to increase efforts towards achieving that goal, including through the replenishment of the Peacebuilding Fund and through multi-donor trust funds. The Council stressed the importance of women's equal participation and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, including peacebuilding, and in that regard, underlined the importance of enhancing the mobilization of resources for initiatives that addressed women's peacebuilding needs, advanced gender equality and empowered women in peacebuilding contexts.

On 29 October 2010, the Council unanimously adopted resolution 1947 (2010), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the report presented by the co-facilitators entitled "Review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture" (A/64/868-S/2010/393, annex) and requested all relevant United Nations actors to take forward, within their mandates and as appropriate, the recommendations of the report with the aim of

further improving the effectiveness of the Peacebuilding Commission. The Council also called for a further comprehensive review in five years following the procedure set out in paragraph 27 of resolution 1645 (2005).

Threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts

On 4 October, the members of the Security Council, in a press statement (SC/10048), condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist bombings that had occurred in Abuja on 1 October 2010, causing numerous deaths and injuries. They expressed their deep sympathy and condolences to the victims of that heinous crime and to their families, and to the people and Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria. The members of the Council, inter alia, reaffirmed the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts.

On 25 October, the members of the Security Council, in a press statement (SC/10070), condemned in the strongest terms the terrorist attack against the United Nations operations centre in the western city of Herat, Afghanistan, on 23 October. The members of the Council noted that while no casualties among the United Nations staff had been reported, the Council deeply regretted that a number of security guards had been wounded. The members of the Council reiterated their steadfast support for the role of the United Nations in Afghanistan. They also underlined the need to bring perpetrators, organizers, financiers and sponsors of those reprehensible acts of terrorism to justice, and urged all States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant Security Council resolutions, to cooperate actively with the Afghan authorities in that regard.

Women and peace and security

On 26 October, marking the tenth anniversary of resolution 1325 (2000), the Council held an open debate on women and peace and security, presided over by Uganda's First Deputy Prime Minister and Minister for East African Community Affairs, Eriya Kategaya. In his opening remarks, he said that although a great deal of progress had been made by the United Nations and the wider international community towards enhancing the participation of women in conflict resolution, peace processes and post-conflict reconstruction, there were still situations in which conflicts continued to have a devastating impact on women and girls. He stressed the need to move beyond the reaffirmation of a common commitment to the implementation of resolution 1325 (2000) and make strong, time-bound and measurable commitments for action.

The Secretary-General, in a statement via video-link, noted the wide-ranging activities, on the part of the United Nations and Member States, spurred by resolution 1325 (2000) over the past 10 years, but pointed out that the decade had also been marred by widespread rape, physical abuse and other violations of the rights and physical security of women and children during and after conflict. He called upon the Council to endorse the comprehensive set of indicators set forth in his report on women and peace and security (S/2010/498), with a view to ending impunity and ensuring women's participation in all stages of peace processes.

The Council was also briefed by the Under-Secretary-General for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women, Michelle Bachelet, who said that the comprehensive set of indicators in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498)

represented a highly practical new tool to support implementation of the women and peace and security agenda. She said that with strong Council leadership, the determination of Member States, civil society engagement, and United Nations commitment and assistance, would collectively ensure coherent implementation of the important work on women, peace and security.

The Council also heard a statement by the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations, Alain Le Roy, who said that the Departments of Peacekeeping Operations and Field Support had jointly launched a process to review implementation of resolution 1325 (2000), which had showed how the leadership of peacekeeping missions could use their good offices to facilitate women's participation in political processes. The review had also showed that cultivating partnerships with women in post-conflict countries greatly enhanced knowledge and understanding of the operational environment, and thus the ability to protect women and girls from sexual violence.

The President of the Economic and Social Council, Hamidon Ali, noted that gender equality and empowerment of women were cross-cutting issues, and that the Economic and Social Council reviewed annually how the United Nations system mainstreamed gender perspectives in its activities. He said that violence against women in conflict and post-conflict situations was a challenge both to development and to security, and affected not only the health and safety of women, but also the political, economic and social stability of their nations.

A representative of the Civil Society Advisory Group to the United Nations on Women, Peace and Security, Thelma Awori, said that resolution 1325 (2000) provided a valuable road map, which must be followed. She pointed out that women were still excluded from many of the forums that would determine their future, which was costly not only for women but also in terms of the sustainability of peace. She welcomed the indicators set forth in the Secretary-General's report (S/2010/498), as well as the creation of UN-Women, and called upon the Council to commit itself to taking action on women, peace and security issues in its work.

Statements were made by the Council members, including the Federal Minister for Foreign Affairs of Austria; the Secretary of State of the United States of America; the Parliamentary Vice-Minister for Foreign Affairs of Japan; and 70 representatives of Members States, including the Minister for International Cooperation of Canada; the Minister for Equal Opportunity of Italy; the Minister for Tourism and Culture of Gambia; the Minister for Gender and Development of Liberia; the Minister of the Interior of Finland; the Minister for Defence of Norway; the Deputy Minister for Social Development of South Africa; the Minister of State for Integration, Equality and Human Rights of Ireland; and the State Secretary for Foreign Affairs of Sweden; the Director-General in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Slovenia; the Head of the National Commission to Prevent and Eradicate Violence against Women of Mexico; and a Senator from Rwanda. Statements were also made by representatives of organizations and observers.

Most speakers welcomed the progress made over the last decade since the adoption of resolution 1325 (2000) and urged intensified action to improve the situation of women on the ground as well as to ensure their greater participation in peace and security activities. Many speakers pledged their respective countries' support for those efforts, and outlined national action plans towards that end. The

need to end impunity for perpetrators of sexual violence in conflict and post-conflict situations was reiterated.

The Council adopted a presidential statement on 26 October (S/PRST/2010/22), in which it, inter alia, welcomed the efforts of Member States to implement its resolution 1325 (2000) at the national level, including the increase in the number of States that had formulated or revised national action plans and strategies, and encouraged Member States to continue to pursue such implementation. The Council also welcomed the concrete commitments made by a number of Member States during the Ministerial open debate on 26 October to increase their efforts to implement resolution 1325 (2000) and invited those Member States and any other Member States that wished to do so to regularly review implementation of the resolution and to report to the Security Council on progress made as appropriate. The Council supported taking forward, including by relevant United Nations entities, the set of indicators contained in the report of the Secretary-General (S/2010/498) for use as an initial framework to track implementation of its resolution 1325 (2000) in situations of armed conflict and post-conflict and other situations relevant to the implementation of that resolution, as appropriate, and taking into account the specificity of each country.

International Court of Justice

On 27 October, at a private meeting, the Council heard a briefing by the President of the International Court of Justice, Judge Hisashi Owada, on the work of the Court.

Annual report of the Security Council to the General Assembly

On 28 October, the Council held a public meeting during which it adopted its annual report to the General Assembly for the period from 1 August 2009 to 31 July 2010. The introduction to the report was prepared by the delegation of Nigeria as President of the Council in July 2010, while the body of the report was prepared by the Secretariat. The decision was reflected in a note by the President of the Council (S/2010/552).